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Advice Concerning The Usage Of Time

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen
Source: Kitaab-ul-'Ilm, Pgs. 204-205

Shaykh Muhammad ibn Saalih al-'Uthaymeen was asked: "What are your guidelines concerning usage of time, and protecting it from being wasted?"

He answered saying: "It is necessary for a student of knowledge to protect his time from being wasted. Time-wasting occurs in a number of ways:

1. That one leaves learning and revising what one has read.

2. That one sits with his friends and indulges in vain talk which contains no benefit.

This is the most harmful of them upon a student of knowledge: That he has no concern except pursuing people's statements, [for] "maa qeela wa qaala (what was said and what he said)", and [for] "maa hasala wa maa yahsul (what occurred and what is taking place)", regarding an issue of no concern to him.

No doubt, this is from a weak Islaam, as the Prophet (sall-Allaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) said:

> "From a person's good Islaam is to leave that which doesn't concern him."

Busying oneself with "Qeela wa qaala (what was said and what he said)", and excessive questioning are time-wasters.

In reality it is a disease which, when it comes into man - we ask Allaah for well-being - it becomes his greatest concern. He may show enmity to one who does not deserve enmity, or he may ally one who doesn't deserve alliance due to concerning himself with these issues, which busy himself away from knowledge, with the pretext of "championing the truth", while this is not the case.

Rather, this is pertaining to occupying oneself with an issue which does not concern him.

If a report comes to you, without you having pursued it or sought it, then all people receive news but they don't busy themselves with it, nor does it become their greatest concern, because this occupies the student of knowledge. It corrupts his affair, and opens for the Ummah the door of Hizbiyyah (partisanship) then the Ummah will split.